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COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1931.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

J. W. JACOBS, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER,
CROSS STREET, NEWPORT.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

FOR THE YEAR 1931.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee of the Isle of Wight
County Council.*

Gentlemen,

The year 1931 was characterised by a cold wet summer but it was not an unhealthy one as judged by the comparative freedom from infectious diseases, the low infant mortality rate of less than 30 per 1000 births, and the continued fall in the tuberculosis death rate. The birth rate showed a further fall to 12.6 per 1000 population and the deaths exceeded the live births by 110.

There were no material changes in the health services during the year and as these were described in some detail in last year's report, this record of the year's work is a comparatively short one. It is supplemented however by a survey of the water supplies of the Island issued under separate cover.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FAIRLEY.

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.
June, 1932.

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Throughout this Report figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) **Medical.** (1) Whole time.

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Officer :	James Fairley, M.D., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officers (including tuberculosis and school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts }	W. Semple Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
	Hayward Carpenter, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Dental Surgeon. (Schools and maternity and child welfare services)	Leslie M. Cartwright, L.D.S.

(2) Part time.

Medical Officer, Parkhurst Institution and Infirmary...	George Raymond, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
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The following are District Medical Officers under the Poor Law Acts and Public Vaccinators :—

Brading District ...	Dr. Alec. Barber.	South Shorwell Dist. ...	Dr. A. H. Newton.
Carisbrooke „ ...	Dr. Arthur A. Straton.	Newport, South	
Cowes „ ...	Dr. Arthur E. Hay.	Arreton and Whippingham Districts ...	Dr. Stanley Foster.
Godshill „ ...	Dr. Reginald T. Cooke	Yarmouth District ...	Dr. Harold Y. Mansfield.
Ryde „ ...	Dr. T. Sim.		
North Shorwell Dist.	Dr. A. C. Goodwin.		

(b) **Others.** (1) Whole time.

County Nursing Superintendent. (Joint appointment by County Council and County Nursing Association)	Miss S. J. Lambert, R.R.C., S.R.N., C.M.B.Cert.
Health Visitor and School Nurse	Miss E. M. Blades, C.M.B.Cert.
Dental Attendant (new appointment, January, 1931) ...	Miss M. Kippen.

(2) Part time.

Public Analyst	S. Emsley, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C. (Public Analyst to Southampton County Borough).
Health Visitors and School Nurses	The Nurses of 19 various District Nursing Associations and Miss G. N. Jones, S.R.N., C.M.B.Cert.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Isle of Wight has many advantages from the health point of view. Agriculture is the chief occupation and catering for the many visitors who come to the Island in search of health or pleasure provides work for a good part of the population in the coast towns and villages. There is some ship building in Cowes and East Cowes but unfortunately there has recently been a good deal of unemployment in this industry ; other occupations are yacht building and equipping, aeroplane manufacture and fishing. There are no occupations here which have a prejudicial effect on health. The mild winter climate, high sunshine records and absence of smoke, combined with the beauty and diversity of the scenery make this one of the healthiest and most popular resorts for the visitor.

TABLE I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Sanitary Authority.	Medical Officer of Health.	Area in Acres (1931 Census)	Population at 1931 Census.	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for 1931.	Structurally Separate Dwellings occupied at 1921 Census.†	Number of Families or Separate Occupiers 1921 Census.†	Rateable Value, 1st April, 1932.	Estimated Product of Id. Rate. 1931-32.
I.W. Rural Dist.	Dr. W. S. Wallace ...	86250	29966	{ 28970† 28340§	6785	6878	167994	615
Cowes U.D. ...	Dr. W. S. Wallace ...	1261	10179	9994	2390	2571	58352	224
East Cowes U.D.	Dr. W. S. Wallace ...	604	4595	4559	1143	1168	23294	84
Newport M.B. ..	Dr. W. S. Wallace ...	504	11313	11340	2653	2762	65612	254
Ryde M.B. ...	Dr. L. Firman-Edwards	820	10519	10310	2735	2901	80271	308
St. Helens U.D. ...	Dr. Hayward Carpenter	1941	5478	5317	1269	1371	37830	145
Sandown U.D. ...	Dr. Hayward Carpenter	1223	6167	5712	1290	1290	55316	216
Shanklin U.D. ...	Dr. J. Cowper ...	798	5071	4514	1006	1085	54924	212
Ventnor U.D. ...	Dr. R. T. Cooke ...	745	5112	4684	1238	1282	46083	177
Whole County ...		94146	88400	{ 85400† 84770§	20509	21308	589676	2235

‡ These figures of the 1931 Census are not available at the time of going to press.

† Estimated population for the purpose of calculating the birth rate.

§ " " " " " death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE II.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS.

Area.	Rural District.	Cowes.	East Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	St. Helens.	Sandown.	Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales : Rate per 1,000.
Live birth-rate per 1,000 ...	11'7	11'8	13'4	15'9	11'6	14'3	10'9	6.6	10'7	12'1	15'8
No. of Live Births ...	339	118	61	181	120	76	62	30	50	1037	
Males ...	171	69	33	95	69	40	26	15	23	541	
Females ...	168	49	28	86	51	36	36	15	27	496	
Legitimate : Males ...	160	66	33	86	64	36	24	15	22	506	
Females ...	162	48	28	78	44	33	34	15	25	467	
Illegitimate : Males ...	11	3	—	9	5	4	2	—	1	35	
Females ...	6	1	—	8	7	3	2	—	2	29	
No. of Stillbirths ...	8	4	1	10	6	2	1	2	2	36	
Males ...	5	2	—	7	—	2	—	2	1	19	
Females ...	3	2	1	3	6	—	1	—	1	17	
Legitimate : Males ...	5	2	—	7	—	2	—	2	1	19	
Females ...	3	2	—	3	5	—	1	—	1	15	
Illegitimate : Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Females ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Total No. of Deaths ...	365	117	49	153	148	76	78	78	83	1147	
Males ...	188	54	24	69	75	36	37	33	28	544	
Females ...	177	63	25	84	73	40	41	45	55	603	
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	12'9	11'7	10'7	13'5	14'4	14'3	13'7	17'3	17'7	13'5	12'3
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	5'9	33'9	81'9	27'6	66'7	52'6	32'3	33'3	—	29'9	66'0
Total Infant Deaths ...	2	4	5	5	8	4	2	1	—	31	
No. of Deaths of Legitimate : Males ...	1	3	2	3	6	3	—	—	—	18	
Females ...	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	—	13	
No. of Deaths of Illegitimate : Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth—											
(a) From Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) From other causes ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'08
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	0'06
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	6'0
Population—											
Registrar-General's Estimate	28970†	9994	4559	11340	10310	5317	5712	4514	4684	85400†	
	28340‡									84770‡	

† Estimated population for the purpose of calculating the birth rate.

‡ " " " " " " " " death rate.

The total births numbered 1073 or 60 less than in the previous year. This represents a birth rate per thousand population of 12.6 (13.1) and is the lowest of which we have record. There were 36 stillbirths, i.e., at the rate of 0.4 per thousand population, the rate for England and Wales being 0.67, and the live births numbered 1037 which is at the rate of 12.1 per thousand (12.6) the figure for the whole country being 15.8, the difference in the rates being due to the fact that they are calculated on the gross population and there is a larger proportion of elderly retired persons among the Island population. There were 45 more boys born than girls and 5 more infant boys' deaths. Compared with 1930 there were 31 infant deaths as against 33. One infant death took place from diarrhoea (0), 4 from whooping cough (6), and 23 from congenital debility and premature birth (15). The infant mortality rate per thousand births was 29.9 (30) which is the lowest rate on record. In the country generally the rate was 66 per 1000 births.

During the year 1147 persons died, i.e., 111 more than in the previous year; this gives a general death rate of 13.5 per 1000 population (12.0), which compares with 12.3 for England and Wales. The deaths of children under the age of 5 years numbered 49 as compared with 57 the previous year, whereas the deaths of persons of advanced years showed an increase on the previous year; thus in 1931, 432 persons died of 75 years and over (369), and 722 persons over 64 years (609). These last constituted 63 per cent. of the total deaths in 1931 as against 59 per cent. in 1930. The number of deaths due to influenza was 28 (12), and bronchitis with 45 deaths (38) also showed an increase. On the other hand pneumonia with 21 deaths (37) caused fewer deaths than in the previous year and so also did cancer with 164 (173), cerebral hæmorrhage with 77 deaths (94) and tuberculosis with 60 deaths or 9 less than in 1930.

Some modifications have been made in the tabulation of deaths so that all the causes are not strictly comparable with previous years. Thus 297 deaths are ascribed to heart disease in 1931 against

GENERAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

These arrangements remain the same as detailed in last year's report.

National Health Insurance.—The numbers of insured persons in the Isle of Wight County Insurance Committee's Register in 1931 averaged 29,778 against 29,374 in 1930, and 29,344 in 1929.

Poor Law Relief.—The number of persons in receipt of poor relief in the Isle of Wight in December for each of the last 10 years, was as follows:—

Year.	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.
1922	376	1557	1933
1923	372	1423	1795
1924	366	1118	1484
1925	356	1344	1700
1926	394	990	1384
1927	371	801	1172
1928	341	672	1013
1929	352	632	984
1930	359	564	923
1931	360	822	1182

Mental Defectives.—In last year's annual report it was mentioned that a scheme was under consideration for admitting more mental defectives to Parkhurst Institution. This has not been advanced in any way because the Board of Control have not yet approved it.

2.—**Midwives.**—49 midwives notified their intention to practise in the county during the year. Of these, 8 practised for part of the year only, while 41 were in regular practice, 26 being in the employment of the district nursing associations and 15 in independent practice.

6.—**Maternity and Nursing Homes.**—During 1931, 9 applications were received for registration under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927. One of these was from a person already registered and now removing to different premises and another was in respect of new managers of a home previously registered. These 9 applications were all granted. No orders were made refusing registration and no applications were received for exemption of registration. In 3, the use of the premises as nursing homes was given up and in one the registration lapsed because of removal. At the end of the year 26 homes were registered: 13 for maternity cases only, 9 for maternity and other patients and 4 for non-maternity cases.

BLIND PERSONS' ACT, 1920.

There were 135 registered blind persons in the Island at the end of 1931 of whom none were under school age and 4 were between 5 and 16 years of age. These are sent to special schools for the blind by the Education Authority. 42 were between the ages of 16 and 50 years and 89 were over 50 years of age. The Isle of Wight Society for the Benefit of the Indigent Blind undertakes the supervision of these blind persons and works in conjunction with the County Council scheme. Financial assistance is given to those in need, and a Home Visitor teaches Braille and pastime occupations to the unemployable blind. At the end of the year 69 persons were in receipt of an allowance from the Society.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH.

Twenty-seven lectures were given during the year by the medical staff on various subjects concerning health, 13 of these being to Women's Institutes.

HOUSING.

In previous years a table has been included in this report to show the activities of the various district Councils as regards housing but these particulars can be obtained from the reports of the District Medical Officers of Health and the table will therefore not be repeated. There is an insufficiency of houses for the working classes in most districts of the Island, particularly in the urban districts and it seems unlikely that this insufficiency will be entirely met until private enterprise again undertakes the erection of this class of building. There is no acute shortage of houses, however, in any district and generally the housing position here compares not unfavourably with that in other areas. There are no slums such as can be found in most big centres of population. It is true that there are a fair number of cottages which are not ideal; their space is too small for the accommodation of any but small families and they were erected without proper damp proof courses. But such houses exist in all parts of the country and they are being gradually replaced here as elsewhere: they cannot all be done away with at once because there is nothing to take their place and after all they are fulfilling a need not inadequately. It is not an infrequent experience when visiting the poorer houses to find that the best use is not made of the existing accommodation and speaking generally many more imperfections in housing are due to action or want of action on the part of the tenant than to structural defects in the building.

As regards the extent of the accommodation there are very few farm cottages which provide sufficient space to house a large family in accordance with the standards now expected: but this is probably an effect of the urbanisation of the population rather than a cause of it and it would seem very doubtful whether any appreciable demand will exist for this class of building in the country so long as the relative disadvantages of farm workers continue as regards unemployment benefit. Whether the attractions of the town as regards employment for the family would outweigh the consideration of accommodation cannot be decided until larger cottages have been provided on some of the farms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TABLE V.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

Parish.	New Milk.	Other Samples.	Total.	Remarks.
Ashey ...	5 (1d)	—	5	
Bembridge ...	2 (1a)	—	2	Case Dismissed.
Binstead ...	4 (1d) (1a)	—	4	Fined £10 and 14s. costs.
Brading ...	5 (2a)	—	5	Fined £5 and 14s. costs each case. (same vendor.)
Brighstone ...	1	—	1	
Carisbrooke ...	5	—	5	
Chale ...	1	—	1	
Cowes ...	4	—	4	
East Cowes ...	3 (1d)	—	3	
Freshwater ...	3	—	3	
Godshill ...	1	—	1	
Gurnard ...	3	—	3	
Havenstreet ...	1	—	1	
Lake ...	2	—	2	
Merstone ...	1	—	1	
Nettlestone ...	1	—	1	
Newchurch ...	1	—	1	
Newport ...	14	2	16	
Niton ...	5	—	5	
Northwood ...	5	—	5	
Ryde ...	23 (2d)	—	23	
Sandown ...	7 (1d) (1a)	—	7	Fined £5 and 14s. costs.
Seaview ...	3	—	3	
Shalfleet ...	1	—	1	
Shanklin ...	5	—	5	
South Arreton	1	—	1	
St. Helens ...	1	—	1	
Thorley ...	2	—	2	
Ventnor ...	6 (1d)	—	6	
Whippingham...	7 (2a)	—	7	Cases Dismissed (same vendor).
Whitwell ...	1	—	1	
Wootton ...	4	—	4	
Wroxall ...	3	—	3	
Yarmouth ...	1	—	1	
	132 (7a) (7d)	2	134	

(a) Adulterated.

(d) Dirty.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The importance of milk in the dietary, particularly of growing children, has received much emphasis recently in the public as well as the medical press and it is very satisfactory to record that the milk in this county is of a high standard. In richness in fat and in non-fatty solids the great majority of samples analysed are well above the average, and as regards cleanliness it will be seen from Table V. that only 7 of the 132 samples contained visible dirty debris. Early in 1931, a Clean Milk Competition was organised by the Agricultural Education Officer. Twenty-three competitors entered for this and in many cases their milks were found to reach a good standard of bacterial purity and to be within the standard required for graded milk. Four of the competitors were subsequently granted licences to produce Grade A milk and it is to be hoped that they will have the support of the public in producing this clean milk. Another similar competition is being held in the present year with the objects of drawing public attention to the advantages of clean milk and also of explaining to the farmers the best methods of milking and of handling the milk.

Under the Food and Drugs Acts, 134 samples were analysed of which 132 were milk samples. Seven of these were certified to be below the minimum standard laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and if allowance is made for the subsequent samples taken in cases where a first sample is not genuine, there were 5 adulterated samples in a total of 126, i.e., at the rate of 4 per cent. (6.6 per cent. in 1930). Proceedings were taken against the vendors in these 7 cases: 3 were dismissed by the magistrates and in the other 4, fines were inflicted of £10 in one case, £5 in one, and £5 against the vendor of the other 2 with 14/- costs in addition in each case.

Two samples of sausages were analysed for the presence of preservatives and were found to contain sulphur dioxide in permissible amounts.

(b) **Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.**—The following particulars refer to the Administration of the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917, during the year 1931:—

1.—Milk: and cream not sold as preserved cream:—

	Number of samples examined for the presence of preservatives—	Number in which preservatives were reported to be present—
Milk	132	0
Cream	0	0

2.—Cream sold as preserved cream:—None examined.

UNDER THE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 155 (111) animals were examined and reported upon by the Veterinary Inspectors. These included 117 cows in milk and 38 other cows or heifers. In 46 (14) cases in which examination was called for, the presence of tuberculosis was not confirmed by the Veterinary Surgeon. One animal died before it could be examined. One hundred and eight (96) animals were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, of which 3 were classed as tuberculosis of the udder, 72 were tuberculous emaciation, and 33 other forms of tuberculous disease. These animals were all suffering from tuberculosis in an advanced stage.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE 52 WEEKS ENDING 2ND JANUARY, 1932.

	Isle of Wight Rural.	Cowes.	East Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	St. Helens.	Sandown	Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Totals.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)
Scarlet Fever	28	15	1	1	4	2	4	2	3	60 (66)
Diphtheria	7	2	—	16	—	—	2	—	9	36 (68)
Enteric Fever	13	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	16 (9)
Pneumonia	8	2	4	6	3	—	2	—	—	25 (39)
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	4 (1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	10 (16)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2 (1)
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0)
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2 (2)
Erysipelas	10	2	1	9	3	2	2	1	1	31 (25)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	8 (2)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	7	3	8	10	2	3	9	10	80 (112)
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	1	2	7	4	1	—	1	1	26 (22)
Totals	110	31	12	53	31	10	15	14	24	300 (365)

There was a decrease in most of the commoner infectious diseases in 1931, and none of them reached epidemic prevalence, so the total number of notifications fell to 300 from 365 in the previous year.

There were 60 cases of scarlet fever notified (66); this is the lowest number since 1919. The Rural District and Cowes had rather more proportionately than the other districts. In Cowes half the cases were in the spring, but in the Rural District 20 of the 28 cases occurred in the last quarter of the year and 10 were children attending Shalfleet School. The cases were nearly all of a mild type. This is the fourth successive year in which there has been no death from scarlet fever.

The diphtheria notifications fell to 36 (68). This is well under the average. Of the 36 cases, 16 occurred in Newport, 13 being in the first quarter of the year and 3 in the second. There had been 27 notifications of diphtheria in Newport in 1930 and these 13 cases at the beginning of 1931 were apparently the last in this slight wave of prevalence. Ventnor with 9 notifications had the next greatest number, all of them being in the last quarter of the year. There were 3 deaths from diphtheria, i.e., 8 per cent. of the notified cases; one each in Cowes, Newport and Ventnor.

Of the 16 cases of enteric fever all except the one in Sandown occurred in the second quarter of the year, and 13 of them were in Wroxall or neighbourhood. These were cases of paratyphoid B. fever and the source of infection was a carrier of the bacillus who had contracted the disease in 1930. It is known that this organism will survive after passing through a sewage works and in this instance it was recovered from l.c.c. samples from the stream at a distance of 1½ miles below the point of entrance of the sewage effluent. The infection was a milk borne one and no doubt the milk vessels had been contaminated by the water from the stream, as the farm in question was situated on its banks. The first two cases were notified on May 30th, 5 in the following week, and 6 the week after. The source of infection was fortunately evident early in the investigations and the epidemic stopped at once when the consumers were advised to boil the milk, when the milk vessels were not washed in the stream, and the carrier's stools were disinfected. The cases were nearly all mild and none were fatal. A fuller account of this small but interesting epidemic is contained in Dr. W. S. Wallace's annual report as Medical Officer to the Rural District.

There were 25 notifications of primary and of influenzal pneumonia (39) and 21 deaths from pneumonia of all forms (37), these being distributed fairly evenly over the whole Island. The number of deaths from influenza on the other hand increased to 28 from 12 the previous year.

Ten notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received and 4 of puerperal fever. There were no deaths from this cause.—See the section of this report dealing with maternity and child welfare.

There were 2 notifications of cerebro-spinal meningitis (1) and 2 of encephalitis lethargica (sleepy sickness) (2). All 4 cases ended fatally, as did the 3 cases of these diseases notified the previous year.

The school returns show that the non-notifiable infectious diseases were somewhat less prevalent than usual, chicken pox, whooping cough and german measles accounting for about three-fourths of them; there were 4 deaths from whooping cough.

The arrangements in the various districts for the treatment of patients suffering from infectious disease remain the same as before, consideration of any modifications being deferred by the various Councils until after a decision has been arrived at as to the re-arrangement of County Districts under section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1929.

Eight cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified as against 2 in the previous year. All made complete recoveries.

The results of treatment in the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were as follows :—

Year.	Cases.			Vision un-impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
1931	8	8	—	8	—	—	—

Vaccination.—The vaccination returns compared with those of previous years are shown in the following table. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention Regulations, 1917).

TABLE VII.

Year.	1 Births.	2 Vaccinated.	3 Insusceptible.	4 Dead.	5 Conscientious Objection.	6 Postponed.	7 Removed.	8 Unaccounted	Percentage not Vaccinated, i.e. Columns 5, 6, 7, and 8.
1927	1145	456	2	35	560	11	59	22	56'9
1928	1123	432	1	34	557	9	52	38	58'4
1929	1158	385	1	42	661	10	21	23	61'7
1930	1117	328	4	36	687	7	18	37	67.0
1931	1095	342	4	25	660	10	16	38	66'1

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.*

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
5— ...	1	1	1	3	}	2	2	—
10— ...	2	1	2	4			—	—
15— ...	1	5	3	2			—	—
20— ...	8	5	1	1	2	5	—	—
25— ...	15	10	2	2	9	5	1	2
35— ...	8	5	1	1	7	2	—	1
45— ...	10	2	—	1	5	3	—	—
55— ...	7	3	—	1	5	2	—	1
65 and upwards	1	2	1	2	—	2	1	2
	53	34	14	17	28	21	5	6

*Note.—The figures in this table refer not to the calendar year but to the 53 weeks ending 2nd January, 1932.

The new cases shown in Table VIII. include all the primary notifications and also any new cases coming otherwise to the notice of the medical officer during the year. These last number 17, 7 being transfers from other areas, and the death returns giving the first information in 10. The primary notifications number 101; so there were altogether 118 "new" cases (143 in 1930 and 129 in 1929). Of these, 87 suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (115), and 31 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (28). There were 9 fewer deaths registered, viz., 60 as against 69; 49 of these deaths being from pulmonary disease (54) and 11 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (15).

It is satisfactory to observe that the amount of tuberculosis continues to diminish as judged both by the number of notifications and the number of fatal cases. The number of deaths in 1931 is compared with the yearly average for the previous 30 years in the following table :—

Yearly average number of tuberculous deaths for the quinquennium.			Total.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
1901—5	...	...	138	114	24
1906—10	...	...	131	100	31
1911—15	...	...	86	73	13
1916—20	...	...	85	73	12
1921—25	...	...	89	75	14
1926—30	...	...	69	56	13
For the year 1931	...	...	60	49	11

In 1901-5, 11.9 per cent. of the total deaths were caused by tuberculosis, but in 1931 only 5.2 per cent. of all deaths were attributed to this cause.

Of the 60 deaths due to tuberculosis in 1931, 10 were of unnotified persons, 3 being in the Rural District, 2 each in Ventnor and Cowes and 1 each in Ryde, St. Helens and Sandown. Five were due to pulmonary tuberculosis; one of these died in H.M. Prison, Parkhurst, and such cases do not come within the regulations as regards notification; one was under treatment at the County Mental Hospital, one had just had treatment in a sanatorium, and one was an inward transfer of a death which took place in another part of the country and the case was probably notified there. In the remaining case, the patient was under continuous medical treatment and having every attention, but the notification happened to be overlooked. As regards the 5 non-pulmonary cases, one died from meningitis and in this case the diagnosis was not arrived at before death. Two died from tuberculosis of the kidney and in one of these also the diagnosis was made after death. Two died in the Infirmary, one from hip disease and the other had tuberculosis of the skin and it was assumed by the medical officer there that they had both been notified before admission.

It will be clear therefore that in practically every one of these cases there were exceptional circumstances which explain the fact that the patient was not notified before death; and further, although these patients were not notified, medical attention was given and all necessary precautions were observed against the spread of infection. Although the proportion of unnotified deaths seems high, notification is well carried out on the Island and the medical practitioners work in close co-operation with this department.

Table IX. summarises the changes in the register during the calendar year.

Number of Patients	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1930	160	131	43	32	203	163
Added during 1931 (new cases)	45	29	12	14	57	43
Cases removed from other areas	4	3	—	—	4	3
Old cases re-admitted	3	1	—	—	3	1
Total	212	164	55	46	267	210
Removed to other areas during 1931	14	9	5	3	19	12
Removed from the Register as being 'Cured'	—	1	1	1	1	2
Died during 1931	24	19	3	4*	27	23
Died from other diseases...	3	1	—	—	3	1
Number on Register at the end of 1931	171	134	46	38	217	172

* One notified non-pulmonary case died from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The figures in this table are based on the tuberculosis registers of notified cases which are kept by the medical officers of health of the sanitary districts; the 10 deaths of unnotified persons therefore do not appear in the table nor do transfers from one Island district to another. At the beginning of the year there were 366 persons on the Island notified as suffering from tuberculosis. In addition to the 100 new cases there were added during the year 7 cases who came here from other areas and 4 who had previously been taken off the registers either as having recovered but who were found to have active disease again, or as having left the Island but had now returned; 31 patients removed to other areas, 54 died during the year, 4 of them from causes apart from tuberculosis, and 3 were taken off the registers as being cured. At the end of the year therefore, 389 names remained on the registers.

1625 health visits were paid to tuberculous patients for the 9 months ending 31st December, 1931: 1453 of these being by the district nurses who visit the patients in every area except in Shanklin where a private nurse is employed, and in Cowes and East Cowes where there is a whole time County Council nurse. The Council pays at the rate of 1/- for each health visit and for certain nursing visits in approved cases and the expenditure under this heading amounted to £31 11s. 0d. for the 9 months (£47 2s. 0d. for the previous 12 months).

No change has been made in the Council's tuberculosis scheme. Patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis are examined at the dispensary behind the County Hall, Newport,

on Tuesday mornings from 9 o'clock, no appointments being necessary. When patients cannot attend then, they may be given a special appointment or are visited at home. Five out of every 6 notified patients on the Island are under observation at the dispensary. At the end of the year there were 313 patients on the dispensary books, 237 of whom were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 76 from other forms of the disease. Fifty-two were children under 15 years of age and 261 were adults of whom 76 were insured under the National Health Insurance Act. In addition, 11 persons were under observation at the end of the year for the purpose of diagnosis: making a total of 324 on the dispensary books (305).

TABLE X SHOWS THE DISPENSARY WORK COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	New Persons examined	Dispensary Attendances	Home Visits	Bacteriological Examinations		
				Sputum		Other Specimens
				For Tuberculosis Officer	For Medical Practitioners	
1927	191	366	321	128	106	330
1928	244	360	312	137	132	232
1929	244	333	326	122	148	699
1930	201	332	258	111	161	709
1931	199	337	266	62	135	531

Of the 199 new persons examined, 176 were referred by their own doctors for diagnosis or treatment, 7 were transferred from other areas and 16 were examined as contacts, 11 children and 5 adults: one of these last was found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. (In the previous year 12 contacts were examined and in one of these the diagnosis of tuberculosis was established.) Of the 176 persons referred for diagnosis or treatment 124 were adults and 52 were children. Sixty-four of the adults were tuberculous (37 men and 27 women) and 16 of the children (8 boys and 8 girls); 55 suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis and 25 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis of whom 13 were adults (7 men and 6 women) and 12 were children (6 boys and 6 girls).

At the end of 1931, 14 sleeping shelters were in use, 4 having been added during the year. It is hoped that these shelters will be more generally utilised in future because of the very real advantages to be gained both by the patient and by the relatives.

Extra nourishment in the form of milk was given to 25 patients during the financial year ending 31st March, 1932. At the beginning of the year 9 patients were receiving grants, 16 were added during the year and at the end of the year 9 were still in receipt of milk. The cost of this item was £54 2s. 10d. (£42 11s. 3d. in the previous year).

Your Committee has an arrangement with the Portsmouth Education Authorities under which patients may be sent for consultation with one of the specialist orthopædic Surgeons from Alton Hospital who attends the Portsmouth School Clinic on certain days.

During the year 9 patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis of bones or joints were referred under this scheme; some of these were later admitted to hospital and 2 had splints provided at the Committee's expense. This arrangement which enables these patients or orthopædic cases to have the benefit of a specialist's opinion is a most valuable one.

Two patients suffering from lupus received special treatment during the year: one at the skin department of the London Hospital and the other at the Radium Institute.

TABLE XI.—SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING 1931.

Sanatorium or Hospital	Resident at beginning of year	Admitted during year	Discharged during year (inc. Deaths)	Remaining end of year	Total for the year ¹
Longford Sanatorium	25	76	75	26	101
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton	2	2	1	3	4
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor	—	1	1	—	1
Totals	27	79	77	29	106

Residential Treatment.—There were 106 patients admitted to institutions during 1931 as against 121 the previous year and all except 5 were treated at Longford Sanatorium. One was under special observation for a time at the Royal National Hospital and was discharged as being non-tuberculous and 4 were admitted to the Alton Hospital. One of these last was discharged during the year but had to be re-admitted later on, so the 4 admissions refer in fact to 3 patients, all of whom were still under treatment in the hospital at the end of the year and all for tuberculosis of the hip joint.

The numbers treated at Longford during 1931 were as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In residence on December 31st, 1930 ...	10	6	9	25
Admitted during the year	33	19	24	76
Discharged during the year	28	12	26	66
Died during the year	6	2	1	9
In residence December 31st, 1931 ...	9	11	6	26

Of the 66 persons discharged during the year, 26 had been admitted for diagnosis (7 adults and 19 children) and all these were discharged as not being tubercular. The average duration of stay of the 66 persons discharged was 100.5 days (90.1 in 1930 and 67.7 in 1929), but this includes the 26 persons already mentioned as not tubercular. The 40 tuberculous patients remained in the institution for 124.25 days on the average. Twenty-four of them were men, 9 were women and 7 were children. In one child only could the disease be classified as quiescent on discharge; the other 39 patients still had active disease although substantial improvement was made by a good many.

The cost of treatment at Longford Sanatorium per patient per week was £2 7s. 4d. for the year ending 31st March, 1932, and during this period, patients' contributions averaged 4/5 per patient week. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £2 4s. 4d. and 5/2; and for the year ending March, 1930, were £2 6s. 7d. and the contributions 5/9. The explanation of the rise in the cost per head in the year under review lies in the fact that the beds were not so fully occupied, the number of patient weeks amounting to 1156 as against 1245 and 1303 in the two previous years.

The Matron at Longford Sanatorium acknowledges gifts from Alderman G. W. Ball, Esq., J.P., Mr. Batt, Mr. Blechynden, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Burton, Messrs. Burtons' Stores, Sir A. Gough Calthorpe, Dr. H. Carpenter, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Cave, Mr. Dimmick, Dr. J. Fairley, Mr. Guy, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Helpman, Mr. T. Hill, Mrs. Hughes, Messrs. Jordan & Stanley, Miss P. Lelliott, Capt. P. MacDonald, M.P., Councillor Midlane, Miss Monk, Red Cross Library, London, Dr. R. Robertson, J.P., C.C. Councillor Sanders, Mrs. Stagg, Miss Tilley, Mr. Urry, Miss Warren, Mr. Wheeler, St. James' Church, East Cowes, and the County Hall Staff.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Council's arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from venereal diseases remain the same as have been described in previous reports. At the Royal County Hospital, Ryde, the centre is open on Friday afternoons at 3 o'clock for women and at 4 o'clock for men, and there is a centre also at the clinic behind the County Hall. Patients are seen at these centres without previous appointment if they attend when the sessions are held, and treatment is free to all.

Table XII. shows in some detail the work done during 1931 and this is summarised in the following table for comparison with the previous years :—

Year	No. of New Applicants	Number suffering from Venereal Diseases.						No. of days of In-patient Treatment	No. of attendances by patients
		Total	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Other Venereal Diseases.		
Yearly average			M	F	M	F			
1918 - 1920 (3 years)	107	71*	26	19	20	7	—	132	801
1921 - 1925 (5 years)	72	29*	11	8	8	1·6	1·2	14	702
1926 - 1930 (5 years)	110	38	13	7	14	4	—	22	1236
1931	107	43*	17	9	14	3	1	243	1565

*Includes patients suffering from more than one venereal disease.

The number of persons presenting themselves for diagnosis or treatment was 107 (113) and, of these, 64 were not suffering from venereal disease, i.e., 60 per cent. (61 per cent.) Of the 43 patients with venereal disease, 26 had syphilis and although this is an increase on the previous year's figure (18), it is to be noted that only 9 of them were fresh infections and as many as 17 were suffering from the sequelæ of syphilis. The 17 gonorrhœa cases were all fresh infections and it is satisfactory to record a decrease in these cases compared with previous years (26 in 1930, 23 in 1929 and 19 in 1928). On the other hand the notifications of ophthalmia neonatorum rose to 8 in 1931 as against 2 in the previous year. Since treatment of venereal disease was undertaken by public authorities it has been obvious that females suffering from gonorrhœa do not generally attend the centres and our experience on the Island is similar in this respect to that in other parts of the country; e.g. of the 17 new patients who attended last year only three were females.

PAGE 12. The paragraph relating to illegitimate births in the Urban Districts should conclude: "41·38 and 41·96 respectively" instead of "41·15 and 41·96 respectively" as written.

For the Rural Districts read "giving rates of 56·14 and 41·98 respectively" and not "56·35 and 41·98" as written.

PAGE 13. DEATHS.—Lines 3 and 4 should read "and 355 in the Rural, giving an uncorrected death-rate per thousand of 11·45 and 10·89 respectively."

Line 6 should conclude "and the Rural 8·88."

In the Table: Do. Rural Districts should read "0·816 10·89 8·88."

TABLE XII.—RELATING TO ALL PERSONS WHO WERE TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE AT RYDE AND THE BRANCH TREATMENT CENTRE AT NEWPORT DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than Venereal		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1. No. of cases who, on the 1st Jan., 1931, were under treatment or observation for	16	10	—	—	8	4	—	—	24	14
2. Old patients re-admitted during year	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	2
3. No. dealt with during the year in the out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from	17	9	1	—	14	3	35	28	67	40
4. No. of cases transferred from other areas	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2
Total	36	22	1	—	25	8	35	28	97	58
5. No. of cases discharged from the out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment and final tests of cure	—	1	1	—	7	4	—	31	8	5
6. No. of cases which ceased to attend the out-patient Clinic before completion of treatment for	2	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	6	3
7. No. of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure of ...	6	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	11	2
8. No. of cases transferred to other Treatment Centres or to care of Private Practitioners	5	4	—	—	6	3	—	—	11	7
9. No. of cases who, on the 31st Dec., 1931, were under treatment or observation for	23	12	—	—	3	1	35	28	61	41
Total—Items 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9 ...	36	22	1	—	25	8	35	28	97	58
10. Out-patient attendances—										
(a) For individual attention by the Medical Officer	295	208	5	—	170	35	62	42	532	285
(b) For intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressings, etc.	—	—	—	—	656	92	—	—	656	92
11. Aggregate No. of "In-patient days" of treatment given to persons who were suffering from	29	—	—	—	—	214	—	—	29	214
12. Examination of Pathological material—					For detection of				For Wasserman Reaction.	
					Spirochetes		Gonococci			
(a) Specimens which were examined at, and by the Medical Officer of, the Treatment Centre					—		65		—	
(b) Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to an approved laboratory ...					—		—		106	

A. No. of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from—

	Isle of Wight.		London.		Totals.	
Syphilis	25	...	1	...	26	...
Soft Chancre	1	...	—	...	1	...
Gonorrhœa	17	...	—	...	17	...
Conditions other than venereal	63	...	—	...	63	...
	106	...	1	...	107	...

B. Total No. of attendances at the out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in each area

1525 40 1565

C. Aggregate No. of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in each area

243 — 243

	Isle of Wight.	London.	Totals.
D. No. of doses of Arsenobenzene compounds given	285	4	289
No. of doses of Bismuth preparations given	268	—	268

The number of days' hospital treatment was substantially greater than in any previous year because one intractable case required prolonged in-patient treatment. In addition to the 243 days in-patient treatment shown in Table XII, 21 days' hospital treatment at Portsmouth were debited to the Council's scheme.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The total number of specimens examined at the bacteriological laboratory during the year was 728 as against 981 in the previous year, the difference being caused by 185 fewer swabs being submitted for examination for the presence of diphtheria bacilli, and 72 fewer specimens for examination for tubercle bacilli. This service is being very generally utilised as is shown by the numbers of specimens sent in from each sanitary district: these were as follows:— Cowes 69, East Cowes 20, Newport, 186, Ryde 20, St. Helens 11, Sandown 22, Shanklin 23, Ventnor 62, and the Rural District 184; there were 62 specimens from the isolation hospitals, 23 from Longford sanatorium and 46 from the venereal disease treatment centres.

Further details of the 728 examinations are as follows:—

	Total number of specimens examined.	Positive	Negative
Sputum for tubercle bacilli—			
For Medical Practitioners	135	26	109
For Tuberculosis Officers	62	16	46
Other fluids for tubercle bacilli	10	1	9
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli—			
For Medical Practitioners	292	37	255
Others, i.e., for isolation hospital schools, etc.	85	19	66
Bloods for Widal reaction	43	16	27
Smears for Gonococci... ..	65	19	46
Hairs for Ringworm	10	4	6
Other examinations	26	12	14
Total	728	150	578

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwives.—As has been mentioned earlier in this report the number of midwives notifying their intention to practise during the year was 49 and these cover every district of the Island. Their inspection by the County Nursing Superintendent entailed 137 visits by her of which 106 were routine visits and 31 were special visits of enquiry.

In 1931 there were 1037 live births registered in the Island including 120 in Ryde, which is the only local authority having a maternity and child welfare scheme apart from the County Council. In addition there were 36 stillbirths bringing the total number of births to 1073. A midwife was present at 875 of them or 81.5 per cent., and so far as our information goes it appears that a doctor also was present at 288 of the 875, so the number of births which the midwives attended alone was 587 or 54.7 per cent. of the total (56.2). The midwives notified 14 stillbirths, 2 deaths of child, 13 artificial feeding, 10 performing last offices and 19 liability to be a source of infection, and they also sent notices of having summoned medical help in 161 instances. An analysis of the 161 cases shows that 17 were for the child and 144 for the mother. Of these last, 26 were for complications arising during pregnancy (11 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage and 15 for other causes during pregnancy); 104 were for causes arising during labour (33 of these being for obstructed or delayed labour, 6 for haemorrhage, 43 for ruptured perineum, and 22 for other causes during labour); and 14 were for causes arising after labour.

In cases in which medical help is sought by a midwife the Council is liable for payment of the doctor's fee, but it is required to recover the fee from the patient except in necessitous cases. During the financial year ending 31st March, 1932, the Council paid the doctor's fee in 58 such cases, amounting to £99 4s. 6d. Of these 58 cases full liability was undertaken in 39; in 9 the patient was required to repay part of the fee, and in 10 to repay the whole fee. The amount received during the year was £17 2s. 6d., and the arrears on the 31st March amounted to £23 9s. 6d. The net expenditure of the Council under this heading has thus been £82 2s.

Table XIII shows the number of births attended by midwives compared with previous years and the proportion in which medical help was summoned and was paid for by the Council.

Year.	Total Births.	Number of Births.		No. summoning medical help.	No. in which medical fee was paid by Council.	Amount paid by Council less repayments by patients.
		Attended by Midwives (Dr. also engaged in some)	Attended by midwives alone (No Dr. engaged)			
1927	1124	891	712	160	*	£40 13 6
1928	1168	906	736	134	55	£55 18 0
1929	1182	903	683	162	56	£76 11 0
1930	1133	904	637	152	58	£67 17 0
1931	1073	875	587	161	58	£82 2 0

**The figures are those for the financial year ending 31st March.*

Visits to expectant mothers are paid as part of a midwife's duties. Column 2 in Table XIV. shows that 3842 such visits were made by those midwives who are also health visitors, but this figure includes some (in Cowes and East Cowes) made by the Council's whole time health visitor; when allowance is made for these and the visits are added which other midwives in independent practice have paid, it is found that 5046 visits were paid to 909 expectant mothers. All the midwives' cases were therefore visited and on the average 5.5 visits were made to each case.

Midwives' Institute.—In connection particularly with ante-natal work there have been considerable developments in recent years in midwifery practice, and with a view to imparting this knowledge to the midwives whose training had been completed previously and also to keep the midwives in touch generally with up-to-date methods, a branch of the Midwives' Institute was formed on the Island in October. By the end of the year 27 midwives had joined and at the time of writing every practising midwife with only two or three exceptions have become members.

Lectures, demonstrations and discussions are held monthly at Parkhurst Institution with the kind permission of the Public Assistance Committee. A number of the lectures have been given by members of the staffs of the training colleges in London, and up to the present the necessary expenses have been met by the members themselves. It is especially in a county area where the midwives are practising in isolated districts that an organization of this sort is of the very greatest educative value.

Special Confinement Cases.—Four patients (6) were admitted to the maternity ward at Parkhurst Infirmary through the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare scheme; one of these suffered from diabetes (a re-admission from the previous year), one from phlebitis, one from prolapse and one from eclampsia. With the exception of the eclampsia case which ended fatally, these patients did well and left the Institution with healthy babies. One only was asked to contribute towards the cost of her treatment, the payment amounting to £3 14s. 10d.

Puerperal Fever.—14 cases of puerperal pyrexia or puerperal fever were notified during the year, 4 in Ryde, 1 in Oakfield, 3 in Newport, 2 in Sandown, 1 in East Cowes and 3 in the Rural District, i.e. one each in Freshwater, Godshill and Shorwell. All these cases were investigated and no connection could be traced between any of them with the exception of two of the Ryde patients whose confinements were attended by the same midwife. These were both normal labours: the first patient became fevered on the day following her confinement and she was admitted to hospital on the next day. The midwife was then off duty until after she had taken the necessary measures for cleansing and completely disinfecting her clothing and bag, etc. The second patient was confined six days after the first and although the same midwife attended her it is only fair to state that the baby was born and the confinement completely over before the midwife's arrival at the house, and that no examination was made by her: this patient became fevered on the third day after her confinement.

Of the 14 patients, 6 were removed to hospital, 7 were treated at home and one who was confined in a nursing home completed her treatment there after only a few days' illness.

Of the 7 patients treated at home, the fever in 2 of them was obviously due to conditions, such as bad 'colds' etc. which were unconnected with the puerperium, and these were soon well again. In the other 5 the fever was apparently caused by puerperal sepsis. These were all treated with antitoxin and they all recovered: in 4 cases the antitoxin was supplied through their private doctors from the Council's stock and in the other case it was obtained privately.

The 6 patients removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fairlee were more serious cases of puerperal sepsis. Their treatment included intravenous injections of scarlet fever antitoxin and intra-uterine injections of glycerine. Their stay in hospital (including both the day of admission and the day of discharge) averaged 31.16 days and varied between 22 days and 43 days. They all made complete recoveries. Two of these patients were from Ryde, 1 from Oakfield, 2 from Sandown and 1 from Shorwell.

After consideration of their financial circumstances, your Committee decided that no charge should be made for antitoxin in the domiciliary cases, nor should any contribution be required in the hospital cases towards the cost of their treatment except in two cases, the payments amounting to £3 in the one and £1 17s. 6d. in the other.

Maternal Deaths.—There were three maternal deaths, two from eclampsia and one from pulmonary embolism. This last occurred in one of the nursing homes after a difficult labour. Of the eclampsia deaths, one took place in Parkhurst Infirmary as mentioned above and the other at her own home; this was a very acute case which led rapidly to a fatal issue.

The maternity mortality was 2.79 per 1000 births, which compares favourably with the figures of recent years (3.53 in 1930 and 6.76 in 1929). As has been pointed out in previous reports our figures are bound to fluctuate more violently than the maternal mortality rate in a large area or in the country generally, because, where small figures are concerned, one or two deaths more or less makes a substantial difference in the rate calculated per thousand births. 1931 is the first year since 1919 in which no deaths from puerperal sepsis have occurred on the Island and it is probably for that reason that the total number of maternal deaths was smaller in 1931 than in any intervening year since 1919.

Infant Welfare.—Excluding the 126 births in Ryde there were 947 births (including stillbirths) registered in the area administered for maternity and child welfare purposes by the County Council and 924 of these, i.e., 97.6 per cent. were notified to the County Medical Officer. The number of infant deaths in this area was 23, or at the rate of 25.8 per 1000 live births. If the figures for Ryde are included the infant mortality rate for the Island is 29.9 which is slightly under the previous year's rate of 30 per 1000 births and is the lowest rate yet recorded. No infant died in Ventnor during the year, and only two died in the Rural District which is equivalent to the very low infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1000 live births.

Health Visiting.—No modification has been made during the year in the arrangements for infant health visiting which were detailed in last year's report. The number of such visits made in each district is shown in Table XIV. During the year, one child, two years of age who suffered from infantile paralysis was sent for consultation with the orthopaedic specialist at Portsmouth under the Council's orthopaedic scheme and he was subsequently admitted to the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital at Alton in December and was in residence there at the end of the year. (Another child also with infantile paralysis was sent for the specialist's opinion but as she was of school age, the Education Committee were responsible for her.) The child mentioned in last years' report as being under treatment at the Alton Hospital for congenital dislocation of the hip was discharged in the early part of the year. In addition to these hospital cases, your Committee provided spectacles for a child under school age and they paid travelling expenses in another similar case.

Boarded out children.—The changes in the Children Act Register during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1931, are as follows :—

On register January 1st, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	42
Added during the year 1931	...	...	...	...	...	20
						—
						62
Removed during 1931	...	...	...	...	...	27
i.e., To other areas	...	4				
To care of relations	...	14				
On attaining 7 years of age	9					
						—
On register December 31st, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	35
						—

These numbers do not include those in the Borough of Ryde which are supervised by the Ryde Town Council. So far as the County is concerned the first visits are made by Miss Lambert, the County Nursing Superintendent and subsequent visits by the district nurses and in addition by one or other of the medical officers. In 1931, the medical officers made 48 visits, and the County Nursing Superintendent and the Health Visitors 175 visits.

Other County Council work carried out by the district nurses includes the home visiting of mental defectives under the supervision of the Medical Officer to the Mental Deficiency Committee.

The work of the Health Visitors in each district during 1931 is summarised in Table XIV.

						To Expectant Mothers.		To Infants under 1.		Visits to Children aged 1-5.
						First Visits	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	
Arreton	Nurse	...	...	...	...	19	107	25	115	167
Bembridge	"	...	...	...	...	11	56	9	126	143
Brading	"	...	...	...	...	14	83	19	119	190
Brighstone	"	...	...	...	...	11	102	9	124	158
Carisbrooke	"	...	...	...	...	31	168	68	373	286
Chale	"	...	...	...	...	16	131	12	103	91
Cowes	Nurse Preston & Nurse Collins					51	168	—	—	—
Cowes	(Nurse Blades)	...	...	...	...	39	91	162	982	1491
East Cowes		...	...	...	...					
Freshwater	Nurse	...	...	...	...	40	172	48	239	256
Godshill	"	...	...	...	...	31	218	47	191	78
Newport	"	...	...	...	...	144	639	236	888	1638
Niton	"	...	...	...	...	5	58	17	147	204
Northwood	"	...	...	...	...	15	98	33	163	66
Ryde District	"	...	...	...	...	106	753	214	2182	2098
St. Helens	"	...	...	...	...	21	103	13	92	112
Sandown	"	...	...	...	...	47	252	68	465	525
Seaview	"	...	...	...	...	3	110	3	130	173
Shanklin (Nurse Jones)	"	...	...	...	...	12	31	30	88	82
Ventnor	Nurse	...	...	...	...	48	386	56	456	624
Wootton	"	...	...	...	...	13	84	17	277	263
Yarmouth	"	...	...	...	...	8	32	8	154	42
Total	...	...	...	...	...	685	3842	1094	7414	8687

TABLE XV.—SHOWING THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF THE VARIOUS INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

District.	Honorary Secretary.	Nurse in Charge.	Address of Centre.	Days and Times of Meetings.	M.O. and Times of Attendances.	Approximate Average Attendance Children.
Bembridge	Lady Thornycroft	Bennett, A.	Church Room	2nd Wednesdays, 3 p.m.	County M.O., Monthly	22
Brading	Miss Robinson	Pierce, E.	Ditto	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	County M.O., Monthly (4th Tuesday)	10
Carisbrooke	Mrs. Goodwin	Preston, H.	Church Hall	1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	County M.O., Monthly	19
East Cowes	Mrs. Jones	Blades, E.	Ditto	Alternate Tuesdays	County M.O., Monthly	13
West Cowes	Mrs. Churchman	Blades, E.	Adelaide Grove St. Mary's Hall, Mary Street	Wednesdays, 3 p.m.	County M.O., Fortnightly (1st and 3rd Wed.)	32
Freshwater	Mrs. McMaster	Bowler, M. Rodda, M.	Parish Room	Alternate Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.	Dr. Mansfield Fortnightly	23
Newport	Miss Morey	Cheverton, D.	Church Hall	Thursdays 2.30 p.m.	County M.O., Fortnightly	54
Parkhurst Barracks	Mrs. Perkis	Preston, H.	Barracks	Alternate Thursdays, 3 p.m.	Officer in Charge, R.A.M.C.	17
Ryde	Miss Corrie	Holmes, G.	Melville Street	Fridays, 3 p.m.	Dr. Edwards Weekly	51
St. Helens	Mrs. Cockburn	Longworth, A.	The Institute	2nd Thursdays, 2.30-4 p.m.	Dr. Mussen Monthly	11
Sandown	Miss Arnell	Dedman, E.	Rechabite Hall	2nd & 4th Thursdays	County M.O., Monthly (4th Thursday)	35
Seaview	Mrs. Gordon	Mooney, A. M.	Wesleyan School	1st Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Dr. Aston Monthly	8
Shanklin	Mrs. Whitaker	Frampton, E.	St. Saviour's Hall	Alternate Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Dr. Melhuish	16
Ventnor	Mrs. Smyly	Stoodley, E. M.	Church Hall Alpine Road	2nd & 4th Thursdays	County M.O., Monthly (4th Thursday)	52
Wroxall	Mrs. Ferguson	Adamson, C.	Church Hall	1st Fridays	County M.O., Monthly (1st Friday)	30

All the populous areas on the Island are served by the 15 infant welfare centres shown in Table XV. The attendances at these centres average 393 and as many mothers do not attend every session this means that not less than six or seven hundred infants are kept under supervision of nurses and doctors. It is the young mothers particularly who benefit from this skilled supervision. The work done at these centres has been one of the factors effecting the great saving in infant life which has taken place in recent years, and the public owes a debt of gratitude to the ladies who give up so much of their time and energies to the management of these centres.

The Council makes grants of milk to necessitous cases attending the infant welfare centres. During the financial year ending 31st March, 1932, £85 15s. 1d. was expended for 754 weeks' supply to 72 cases. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £110 10s. 0d. for 839 weeks' supply to 72 cases and for the year ending 31st March, 1930, £74 7s. 3d. for 563 weeks' supply to 47 cases.

In connection with the welfare centres also, dental treatment is provided in certain necessitous cases to both mothers and young children and this provision has been very much appreciated. During the year 116 mothers were treated, and the number of attendances was 400, most of these being for extractions only; 42 mothers applied for dentures under the Council's scheme and these applications were all granted. In 37 cases the mothers were required to contribute towards the cost, and in 5 payment was excused. This scheme is intended to assist in the provision of dentures for expectant or nursing mothers who cannot afford to obtain them privately and full consideration is always given to the financial circumstances of the applicants.

COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Throughout the year the work of the County Nursing Association has continued in co-ordinating the work in the districts, in supervising the work of the nurses and in the other functions detailed in last year's report. In that report it was mentioned that one small area was not at the end of the year being served by a district nurse midwife, but at the time of writing this has been arranged for by the Carisbrooke Nurse undertaking the work in the Lock's Green District and the Yarmouth Nurse taking over the remainder which was the greater part of the area not covered. To make this possible a car has been provided by the Yarmouth Association. One other Association provided a car for its nurse during the year, viz., the Wootton District Nursing Association.

The whole Island is thus again covered by district nurse midwives. These belong to 21 different associations of which 18 are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Table XVI. summarises some of the work done in the various affiliated districts during the year ending 31st March, 1932.

Nursing Association.	Medical Cases.	Surgical Cases.	Total.	Midwifery Cases.	Maternity Cases.	Total.
Arreton, Gatcombe, Chillerton, Blackwater, Rookley, and Merstone ...	30	4	34	15	1	16
Bembridge	89	7	96	8	3	11
Brading	50	20	70	7	1	8
Brighstone, Brook, Mottistone and Calbourne	72	48	120	15	6	21
Carisbrooke and Porchfield	118	48	166	31	7	38
Chale, Kingston, and Shorwell	41	39	80	8	8	16
Cowes	147	100	247	38	14	52
Freshwater and Totland	112	113	225	26	17	43
Newport	396	186	582	96	31	127
Niton, Whitwell and St. Lawrence	105	9	114	9	3	12
Northwood and Gurnard	48	44	92	9	6	15
Ryde	213	77	290	91	31	122
St. Helens	47	10	57	12	7	19
Sandown and Newchurch... ..	26	25	51	30	19	49
Seaview and Nettlestone	76	47	123	6	4	10
Ventnor, Bonchurch, Wroxall, and Godshill	190	66	256	51	20	71
Wootton Bridge and District	59	46	105	4	8	12
Yarmouth, Thorley, Newtown and Shalfleet	59	47	106	2	5	7
Totals	1878	936	2814	458	191	649

METEOROLOGY.

To Mr. John Dover, M.A., of the Totland Meteorological Station, Major C. G. Brodie, of Wootton, and Mr. C. Orchard, of Sandown, I am indebted for the figures in Table XVIII.

Month.	Maximum Temperatures.			Minimum Temperatures.			Mean Temperatures.			Rainfall in Inches.			Hours of Sunshine		
	Totland	Wootton	Sandown	Totland	Wootton	Sandown	Totland	Wootton	Sandown	Totland	Wootton	Sandown	Totland	Wootton	Sandown
January ...	50'9	52'0	52'0	25'7	21'0	25'0	40'5	39'5	38'5	2'05	2'81	2'39	80'8	—	79'7
February	49'8	52'0	51'0	30'1	27'0	31'0	40'9	40'7	41'0	1'74	2'23	2'16	83'5	—	86'9
March ...	57'9	61'0	60'0	21'1	21'0	22'0	41'0	40'2	41'5	1'33	1'19	1'17	139'9	—	126'0
April ...	59'8	63'0	62'0	35'2	34'0	36'0	46'7	45'2	49'0	2'44	3'34	3'16	131'1	—	131'4
May ...	72'0	73'0	71'0	37'2	36'0	38'0	52'2	52'3	54'5	3'00	3'85	3'83	202'7	—	197'0
June ...	72'3	74'0	72'0	45'0	45'0	46'0	58'1	58'4	59'0	2'49	1'75	1'76	210'4	—	232'5
July ...	70'2	73'0	71'0	48'8	47'0	49'0	59'7	58'3	60'0	3'48	3'37	3'35	176'1	—	200'4
August ...	74'5	78'0	77'0	42'6	43'0	45'0	60'1	59'9	61'0	2'95	3'29	4'37	166'4	—	167'1
September	69'0	70'0	67'0	38'2	38'0	40'0	54'7	53'4	53'5	2'04	2'28	1'86	140'8	—	137'3
October ...	65'2	67'0	66'0	27'9	27'0	30'0	50'9	50'1	48'0	0'74	0'79	0'74	130'6	—	113'5
November	59'6	61'0	60'0	37'0	32'0	35'0	49'4	48'0	47'5	4'14	4'49	4'34	75'3	—	70'0
December	56'0	59'0	58'0	28'3	25'0	27'0	43'8	43'4	42'5	0'78	0'97	0'88	42'2	—	38'3
Year 1931	74'5	78'0	77'0	21'1	21'0	22'0	49'8	49'3	49'6	27'18	30'36	30'01	1579'8	—	1580'1

The year 1931 was deficient in sunshine all over the country and the Island was no exception to this. Thus at Totland Mr. Dover recorded only 1580 hours which is much below the yearly average of 1760 for the past 30 years. Sandown had the same total number of hours sunshine, viz., 1580, Shanklin had 1608 hours and Ventnor 1672.

Mr. Dover remarks that only twice in the last 30 years has the sunshine been less, viz., in 1912 and in 1920. The deficiency in sunshine was unfortunately most marked during the summer in July August and September, whereas the four dark months, January, February, November and December were little short of their usual amount. The brightest month at Totland was June with 210 hours. During the year there were 68 sunless days.

The temperature was below the average for the year and the difference from the normal was again most marked in the months of July, August and September. The temperature never rose above 74.5 deg. Far. which was recorded at Totland on August 4th. At Newport it reached 80 deg. Far. on August 5th.

The total rainfall was about 2 inches below the average. The six Winter months gave only 10.78 inches in Totland as against an average of 17.17 inches whereas the six Summer months (April—September) gave 16.40 which is considerably above the usual Summer supply of 12.11 inches. The driest months of the year were October with 0.74 inch instead of its average of 3.96 inches and December with 0.78 inch instead of 3.29 inches.

Major Brodie observes in January, 1932, that "certain local springs are below the average usually observed at this time of year and it may be that the water question will be accentuated during the coming year."

Although there was less total rainfall than usual the year was damper than the average and this was particularly marked in the summer; the year on the whole was a dull one with an abundance of cloud.

There were 14 gales at Totland during the year, 9 of these occurring during the last two months.

